

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Original) A lockable protective cap for a post having a top end and an engageable surface, the cap comprising:
 - a sidewall having a first end and an open second end, said sidewall forming a post receiving opening;
 - a cover at least partially closing said first end of said sidewall;
 - a locking member extending inwardly from said sidewall for engaging the engageable surface of the post.
2. (Original) The cap of claim 1, wherein said cover completely encloses said first end of said sidewall.
3. (Original) The cap of claim 1, wherein said cover provides a protective lip at said first end of said sidewall for covering at least a portion of the top end of the post.
4. (Original) The cap of claim 1, wherein said locking member extends inwardly from said sidewall at an angle from about 40 degrees to about 50 degrees.
5. (Original) The cap of claim 1, wherein said locking member is formed by a portion of said sidewall extending inwardly into said post-receiving opening.
6. (Original) The cap of claim 1, wherein said locking member comprises a rib.
7. (Original) The cap of claim 6, wherein said rib extends substantially around the perimeter of said post-receiving opening of said sidewall.
8. (Original) The cap of claim 1, wherein said sidewall further comprises a channel for mateably engaging a portion of the post.

9. (Original) The cap of claim 1, wherein said locking member is formed unitarily with said sidewall.
10. (Original) The cap of claim 1, wherein said locking member comprises a surface for sliding over the engageable surface of the post.
11. (Original) The cap of claim 1, wherein at least one of said locking member and said sidewall are deformable to slide over the engageable surface of the post.
12. (Original) The cap of claim 1, wherein said locking member comprises a tab.
13. (Original) The cap of claim 1, wherein said locking member comprises a distal surface displaced from said sidewall for engaging the engageable surface of the post.
14. (Original) The cap of claim 1, wherein a distance between an inner surface of said cover and an engaging surface of said locking member comprises a distance of at least about a center-to-center spacing between engageable surfaces of the post.
15. (Original) The cap of claim 1, wherein a distance between an inner surface of said cover and an engaging surface of said locking member comprises a distance of at least about two inches.
16. (Original) The cap of claim 1, wherein a distance between an inner surface of said cover and an engaging surface of said locking member comprises a distance of at least about a center-to-center spacing between engageable surfaces of the post plus about the length of the engageable surface of the post.

17. (Original) The cap of claim 1, wherein a distance between an inner surface of said cover and an engaging surface of said locking member comprises a distance of at least about 2.75 inches.

18. (Original) A lockable protective cap for a post having a top end and an engageable surface, the cap comprising:

a sidewall having a first end and an open second end, said sidewall forming a post receiving opening;

s a cover at least partially closing said first end of said sidewall;

a locking member extending inwardly from said sidewall for engaging the engageable surface of the post; and

a means for preventing said cap from rotating about the post.

19. (Original) The cap of claim 18, wherein said means for preventing said cap from rotating about the post comprises at least one of a channel, a slot, an opening in said sidewall, and a deformable sidewall.

20. (Original) The cap of claim 18, wherein said means for preventing said cap from rotating about the post comprises said sidewall being formed to match the shape of at least a portion of the post.

21. (New) The cap of claim 1, wherein the locking member comprises an engaging surface disposed within the post receiving opening.